

The Sumpter Miner

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The really important part of the digging of the Panama canal will be done by the American tax payers.

The Daily Mining Record takes a splendid stand against knockers; the broad view that there is no good purpose accomplished even by one district or state speaking in a derogatory manner of another. More harm has been done to the mining industry by the "anvil chorus" than all other influences combined.

An Arizona paper contains this suggestive item: "Last night a burglar entered the room of W. S. Tompkins, a promoter. In crawling into the window he made a noise that attracted the attention of Mr. Tompkins, who awoke at once and immediately grappled with the intruder. After a fierce struggle, the promoter succeeded in robbing the burglar."

Tom L. Johnson, the politician and street railway magnate of Cleveland, Ohio, predicts that at no distant date the time necessary to travel between New York to Chicago will be reduced from twenty to two hours. He says that wheels cannot be made to turn at a speed faster than 200 miles an hour, but his scheme is to substitute a sliding motion. Electricity is to be the motive power, straight away, instead of in a circuit.

The one cent piece was first coined in 1786. From 1785 to 1788 several states coined copper cents on their own account. There were altogether in circulation up to 1857 no less than seven different types of the copper cent. The half-cent first coined in Jefferson's time was in circulation up to about 1860. It was abolished by the government in 1857. The old coppers were likewise in 1857, replaced by a smaller cent, composed of 88 per cent copper and 12 nickel. In 1864 this was supplanted by the present bronze cent, which is 95 per cent copper and 0.5 per cent tin and zinc.

The Los Angeles & Santa Fe Railway company is making arrangements to plant the southwestern deserts along the route with spineless cacti, which contain both food and water for cattle. The Mojave desert will first receive attention, then Arizona and New Mexico. Spineless cacti plants are now worth \$100 each, but they are easily propagated. They were developed by Luther Burbank, the famous horticulturist. The percentage of nutrition is next to alfalfa. The railroad company's action means that millions of acres of desert land will be turned into pasture.

Despite the strong protests from New York City the state senate committee has reported favorably on the bill to levy a tax on the sales of socks. Although the measure was slightly amended in one or two particulars, its real character has in no wise been changed, and the committee announces that, if passed,

the law would undoubtedly yield an annual revenue of \$10,000,000 to the state.

Of course Wall Street is protesting vigorously, and this is the way the New York Commercial, its mouth-piece, registers the kick:

"That would be \$10,000,000 a year wrung directly from a branch of New York City's business that is one of the most important in the world and has been among the chief causes contributing to the commercial supremacy of the metropolis; for practically the whole volume of the trading in stocks in this state is done here in the city; and the supporters of this bill coolly propose to slice \$10,000,000 a year out of the business and transfer it to the state treasury at Albany—to mulct the city for the benefit of the country. Apart from the dozen and more sound reasons advanced against the passage of the bill at the recent committee hearing, there are two that ought to be quite sufficient to compass his defeat:

"The tendency of such a law would not only be to decrease and discourage local stock-trading, and thus to defeat its own purpose, but it would also inevitably drive away from New York much of the brokerage business that now comes here from outside the state in such great volume, because the traders would naturally seek those exchanges where the business could be done with the least expense.

"And, from the outset, the extreme unpopularity of the bill would invite its evasion, and "bucketing" and other frauds would multiply rapidly under it.

"Every senator and assemblyman from New York, Kings, Queens and Richmond counties should take the floor in vigorous protest against this bill when it comes up for discussion in either house. They ought never to have allowed it to get out of committee. They can kill it now if they will only organize a fight on it without delay."

A bill has been introduced in the California legislature, the purpose of which is to punish fraudulent promoters and stock jobbers. The bill applies to corporations generally and imposes a penalty of two years' imprisonment or \$5,000 fine or both, upon any officer or director of a corporation who willfully gives incorrect information or assents to or allows the publication of false or exaggerated statements regarding the company or stock to mailed investors, there the same be given to individuals privately or to the public. The same applies to any person representing himself as a director officer of a company to deceive investors.

GOMSTOCK WEALTH, ROMANCE, TRAGEDY

Sandy Bowers was a teamster, his wife a buxom and not uncomely Scotch woman who took in washing and kept a miners' boarding house. It was in the early days of Virginia City, before men had grasped the full value of the discovery, and the teamster, in company with others of his kind, came into possession of several hundred feet on the lode of the Gold Hill.

His claim became one of the bonanzas of the region, and Sandy found himself richer than he ever thought anyone could be. Neither he nor his wife ever rose to the level of their fortune. They remained the team-

ster and the washer woman to the end. There is a story that neither could read nor write. After giving an entertainment at the International hotel, such as that hostelry of many grandeurs had never before seen, they went to Europe for two years.

When they came back they were still the teamster and the washer-woman. Europe had added no veneer. But the money was still in plenty. "Money to throw at the birds," as the old man was wont to say. Nevada was more to their taste than anywhere else, so they elected to remain there, and that strange monument of wealth, which is known all through Nevada and California as the Bowers mansion, was built on the shore of Washoe lake.

The site was one of extraordinary beauty with the walls of snow-capped Sierras behind it, the sapphire sweep of water in front. Money was never considered in its construction. It was built of quarried stone and furnished with the costliest San Francisco could supply. A library of books with Sandy's name on every volume was one of its features. The door handles were of silver, the table furnishings the finest to be had at that place at that time.

Here the old people—for they were getting old—settled and dispensed a lavish hospitality. Here an adopted child whom they dearly loved and had named Persia, died. Here, too, later on, Sandy died and was buried in the garden under the shadow of the Sierras. And here—the shades of evening beginning to close on this strange drama—poverty overtook his widow. She strove to redeem her first losses by speculation, throwing good money after bad. In her case, the wheel of fortune made a complete revolution. Her old age saw her as poor as she had been in her youth. She passed from stage to stage, and finally made a livelihood by practicing fortune-telling in San Francisco, it having been always understood that she had the gift of second sight. The crystal in which she gazed had shown her many things, but nothing stranger, more dramatic and varied than her own life.—Mining and Engineering Review.

Petition for Liquor License.

Bourne, Oregon, February 24th, 1905.

To the Honorable County Court of the County of Baker, State of Oregon:

We, the undersigned, do hereby respectfully represent that we constitute a majority of the legal voters of Bourne precinct, County of Baker, State of Oregon, and do hereby respectfully petition your Honorable Body to grant to George Wright, Sr., a license for the period of three months, commencing April 1st, 1905, and ending June 30th, 1905, to sell spirituous, malt and vinous liquors at retail, at what is commonly known as the Halfway House, in Bourne precinct, County of Baker, State of Oregon, said Halfway House being situated on the Sumpter-Bourne wagon road about three miles southerly from Bourne, in said County and State.

And we further respectfully represent that said Halfway House is not within a mile of any mine.

H. C. Neidermark, Wm. Weigand, Joseph Davis, W. B. Palmer, A. F. Raymond, N. M. Johnson, Dan Farry, C. P. Williams, Don Patterson, Jake Green, J. Weiderham, James Gillblin, John Sorath, J. J. Mullett, D. W. Couzens, F. H. Stevenson, Gus R. Baird, W. H. Baelste, Daniel Cahill, Jas. F.

Deansy, Tom Naughton, J. M. Charles, J. H. Sellers, W. J. Grillington, J. T. Rusk, L. R. Rusk, A. H. Brown, W. J. Evans, W. D. Sprunt, G. R. Penz, John Orwell, E. Beecraft, N. Eastham, R. A. Moore, J. S. Miller, Gus Nelson, Ed Giulley, Pat McGinnis, H. Metz, J. W. Fleegle, J. Gilles, J. D. Covlin, T. L. Downey, H. R. Caddy, Harry Bates, John Brown, T. Stompfer, D. V. Ringland, B. R. Woods, H. Love, P. C. Ainsworth, W. C. Carrell, W. B. Byron, W. S. Lamb, Ed Morgan, B. M. Kenna, O. D. McDonald, W. J. Roreberston, F. Lloyd, Guy Harris, Joe Cobb, Wm. Baeler, J. T. Mahoney, E. O'Harra, Matt Markmann, W. McDonald, C. H. Burns, Mevlin Graham, T. E. Bas, C. O. DeForest, John Paddock, C. S. Kear.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, George Wright, Sr., will, at the first day of April, 1905, term of the County Court of the County of Baker, State of Oregon, or as soon thereafter as he can be heard, apply for a license to sell spirituous, malt and vinous liquors at the Halfway House, in Bourne precinct, Baker County, Oregon, for the period set forth in the foregoing petition.

GEORGE WRIGHT, Sr.

Can't Work Roads Yet.

Pete Estes, who has a life tenure of the job of road supervisor for this district, and a better man for the place can't be found, says that the roads leading from Sumpter are in a horrible condition, but that he can't do a thing to improve them until they get somewhat dryer than they now are. It does no good to throw gravel into bottomless mud, as it soon works down and the work would be wasted. He has a crew of men ready to send out whenever needed, should any place become impassable.

Resume Work on the Virginia.

A. B. Ernest, of Seattle, manager of the company that owns the Virginia, in the Greenhorn district, arrived in town yesterday and left this afternoon for home. The purpose of his present trip to eastern Oregon is to settle some business matters, which were successfully consummated yesterday. Mr. Ernest will leave in about ten days for the east, expecting to return here by May, when arrangements will be perfected for at once resuming work on the Virginia. The shaft will be sunk another 100 feet before the mill is started.

Estray Notice.

Came to Oregon Lumber company's ranch at Whitney, Christmas, 1904, brown pony mare; small white star on forehead, a little white on left hind feet; branded with an X in circle on left shoulder. Owner can have same on proving property and paying expenses, on application at above ranch. L. L. WILSON.

Beautiful Gage Hats.

Mrs. E. L. Sullivan, the Baker City modiste, will display a complete line of spring millinery at Hotel Sumpter for two days, April 3 and 4.

Spring Millinery Opening.

Mrs. E. L. Sullivan, of Baker City, will be at Hotel Sumpter for two days, Monday and Tuesday, April 3 and 4, with a full line of spring millinery, including the celebrated gage hats.